(b) whether CDs related to the said subject have been distributed in Tamil Nadu in large numbers;

(c) whether the said fact was taken in consideration while taking decision regarding implementation of Sethusamudram project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Simulation studies of the Tsunami of 2004 have been conducted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. That Ministry has expressed the opinion that Adam's Bridge has no bearing on the safety of the coast from a Tsunami because of the fact that the southern coast of Tamil Nadu falls under the shadow region of Sri Lanka. No instance of distribution of CDs on the studies amongst the public has come to notice.

(c) and (d) Decision on implementation of the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project was taken by the Government after taking into consideration all relevant factors.

Proposals for expressways and highways in Punjab

501. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several proposals for expressways and highways in the State of Punjab are pending with Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals pending with Government; and

(c) the details of Government plans to improve the condition of roads in various parts of Punjab during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. Ministry plans to improve the condition of roads under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and National Highways (Original) works. Four laning of about 234 km. National Highways at a cost of Rs. 1564 crore (Approximate) is taken up under NHDP Phase II and III. Detailed Project Reports for 4 laning of about 212 km. National Highways are under preparation under NHDP Phase III. The works of about 14 km. four laning, 16 km. widening to two lane, 81 km. strengthening, 16 km. improvement of riding quality, 130 km. paved shoulders, construction of three bridges, road safety and other miscellaneous works to the tune of Rs. 200 crore have been included under National Highways (Original works) in the Annual Plan 2007-08. The Annual Plan 2008-09 is yet to be finalised.

Widening of NH-24

502. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to widen National Highway-24 in view of increasing traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Highway No. 24

from Delhi to Lucknow has been proposed for widening under different schemes depending upon traffic needs. The details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details regarding widening of NH-24.

Sl. No.	Stretch	Proposed Widening	Present Status
1	2	3	4
(i)	Delhi to Delhi/UP border	8-laning under NH(O)	4.1 km. length is already 8-laned. 8 laning of 2.3 km. length is already in progress and targeted to be completed by the March, 2008. The proposal for remaining 2 km. length is included in Annual Plan 2007-08.
(ii)	Delhi/UP border to Moradabad	6-laning proposed under NHDP Phase V	Delhi-UP Border to Hapur is already 4- laned. Work of 4-laning in Hapur-Moradabad is in progress and targeted to be completed by the June, 2008.
(iii)	Moradabad to Sitapur including Moradabad and Bareilly Bypass	4-laning under NHDP Phase-III	DPR for 4-laning is in progress.
(iv)	Sitapur to Lucknow	4-laning under NHDP Phase-III	The work for 4 laning of this stretch under BOT (Toll) is in progress and targeted to be completed by June 2009.

Six-laning of National Highways

503. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the stretches of National Highways converted/proposed to be converted into six-lane, during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and spent for the said purpose, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the time by when the works are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The stretches of National Highways under National Highways Development Project where 6-laning has been completed/under implementation and the expenditure incurred on these projects during the last three years are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

The stretches of National Highways under National Highways Development Project identified to be taken up for 6-laning are given in Statement-II (*See* below). These are expected to cost around Rs. 42,590 crore and have been targeted for completion by 2013.